

## **HIKING**

FOREST SERVICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION**

NATIONAL FOREST – San Juan RANGER DISTRICT - Columbine

Date: February, 2003



# HIGHLAND MARY TRAIL #606

Use: Heavy

<u>Difficulty:</u> More difficult <u>USGS Map (s):</u> Howardsville

**Starting Elevation:** 10,400' End of Cunningham Gulch Rd.

Ending Elevation: 12,090' Highland Mary Lakes

## **Recommended Season:** Summer

Access #1: Follow U.S. 550 north to Silverton.
Continue north through the town of Silverton toward Howardsville. About 3 miles past Howardsville, turn onto FDR #589 and follow this road to the trailhead. 2WD may not be able to complete the last ¾ mile of the drive. Parking is available in both places. The road past the Wilderness boundary is closed to all motorized vehicles and to mountain bikes.

Access #2: The Highland Mary Trail can also be reached via the Whitehead Peak Trail and the Continental Divide Trail. Please refer to the descriptions of these trails.

Attractions & Considerations: The Highland Mary area is a beautiful, high-altitude, subalpine basin that is, for the most part, free of trees. The open meadows are filled with wildflowers in the late summer, providing beautiful views and excellent opportunities for photography. The area is used by large numbers of people and is not the place to go for solitude. The lakes offer fishing but, like most subalpine lakes, tend to remain frozen until summer. Water availability is not a problem, but all water used in this area should be filtered, due to Giardia. Do not camp on the lake shore.

#### **Fishing Considerations:**

The Highland Mary Lakes are rated fair for rainbow, cutthroat, and brook trout.



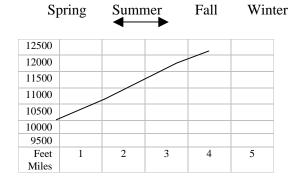
Weminuche Wilderness Regulations: Group size is limited to 15 people. The combination of people and

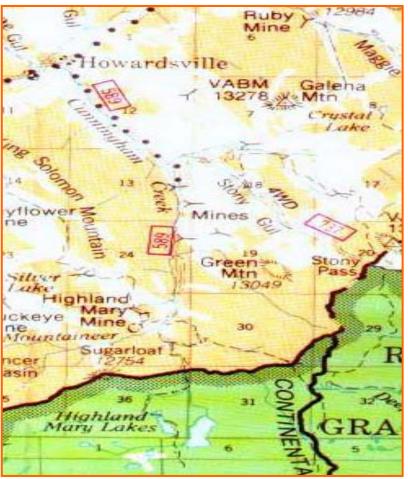
livestock must not exceed 25. All livestock feed must be certified weed free. Camping is not allowed within 100 feet of any water source unless the campsite is designated or posted. Do not leave campfires

unattended. Outfitter-guides who receive any form of compensation must obtain a special-use permit to operate on public land. Dogs must be leashed or under voice control at all times and must not disturb people or wildlife. Shortcutting switchbacks on trails is prohibited. Disposal of human waste and gray water within 100 feet of any water source is prohibited. Trash must be packed out and properly disposed of. Cutting or damaging live trees is prohibited. Please check trailhead signs or Forest Service Offices for site-specific regulations on camping, campfires, and livestock.

#### **Recommended Season**

Length: 4.0 miles (6.4 km.)





# Scan of the San Juan National Forest Map

Forest Service maps and other publications are available at the Public Lands Center, in the Durango Tech Center, ½ mile west of Durango off Highway 160, or by calling (970) 247-4874. www.sjma.org